

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Northern Community Assembly

Meeting held 10 July 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Garry Weatherall (Chair), Alison Brelsford, Katie Condliffe, Richard Crowther, Adam Hurst, Alf Meade, Vickie Priestley, Steve Wilson, Philip Wood and Joyce Wright

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1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair, Councillor Garry Weatherall, welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined basic housekeeping and fire safety arrangements.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Trevor Bagshaw and David Baker.

3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

No items were identified where resolutions may be made to exclude the public and press.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVED: That Councillor Steve Wilson be appointed as the Deputy Chair of the Northern Community Assembly for the Municipal Year 2012/13.

6. OLYMPIC TORCH CELEBRATION

The Chair, Councillor Garry Weatherall, reported that approximately 7,000 people had watched the Olympic torch pass through the Chapeltown/Ecclesfield area and introduced Joshua McGill, who had carried the torch through Chapeltown. Joshua showed the torch to the meeting and explained that he had been selected to carry it because of his presentations on healthy living to local schools and youth clubs. He went on to describe his experience of participating in the torch relay and his feelings on seeing his friends, family and local school children amongst those watching. Joshua added that, as a result of this experience, he was now giving an increased number of healthy living talks to schools, to which he took the torch to show his audience. The Chair congratulated Joshua on his participation and presented him with a certificate to commemorate his achievement.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

7.1 **Petition**

Petition regarding the Provision of a Skate Park in Grenoside

The Assembly received a petition containing 165 signatures requesting a skate park in Grenoside. Councillor Alf Meade expressed his support for the petition and a member of the public stated that the Grenoside Tenants' and Residents' Association might be able to help with raising funds.

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly agrees (a) to refer the petition to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure and the appropriate Parks and Countryside officers; and (b) to discuss the petition at a future Members' briefing meeting.

7.2 **Public Questions**

Responses were provided to public questions as follows:-

7.2.1 *Closure of Newton Grange Residential Care Home*

In relation to the proposal to replace the Newton Grange Residential Care Home with sheltered flats for the elderly, Christine O'Dell, Provider Services Team, explained that it was long term provision which was being considered and that her team had considerable experience of looking after staff and residents in the decommissioning process. She added that her commissioning colleagues were best placed to answer the numerous questions which had been put and she would take these questions back to them and report to a future Assembly meeting.

Pat Niblett, Home Independence Service, indicated that discussions would take place as to what people wanted on the new development and that the way in which housing support needed to be restructured and appropriate social care models had been identified. The only site available for any new building was Newton Grange and proposals would be prepared in conjunction with Sanctuary Housing Association. She emphasised the commitment to continuing discussions and consultation and stated that a more modern model would be the outcome.

7.2.2 *Supertram Link 2 Parking Issue at Malin Bridge*

Simon Botterill, Team Manager, Traffic Management, stated that the Passenger Transport Executive had some available funding to investigate where to locate the tram stop and there would hopefully be some progress in this regard by the end of the year.

7.2.3 *Speed Indication Devices*

Andy McKie, Highways Officer, stated that all available data was to be considered and sites identified for the deployment of the Speed Indication

Devices and Lisa Lyon, Community Assembly Manager, explained that the funding allocation for their rotation during 2012/13 was contained within the Highways Budget report which the Assembly would consider later in the meeting.

7.2.4 *Flooding in Oughtibridge*

The Community Assembly Manager would pass the question to the appropriate Council officer for attention.

7.2.5 *Thorncliffe Project and Master Plan*

Councillor Steve Wilson stated that he had met with the Community Assembly Manager and Director of Culture and Environment and was waiting to find out what users wanted from the project. There would be full consultation with all stakeholders including the Community Assembly and Parish Council. Marika Puglisi, Community Assembly Manager, added that the Assembly had approved an allocation of £5,000 towards the groups associated with the project and she would keep the questioner informed of any decisions.

7.2.6 *Wheel Lane Meeting*

The Chair, Councillor Garry Weatherall, indicated that the Highways report, to be considered later in the meeting, explained the current position regarding Wheel Lane.

7.2.7 *Assembly Small Highways Schemes 2011/12*

Andy McKie, Highways Officer, explained that the majority of small highways schemes approved during 2011/12 had been finished, but the dropped kerbs at the Acorn crossroads had not been completed because of the link in this financial year with the Highways Private Finance Initiative. He added that the order for the work had been placed one week ago.

7.2.8 *Village Officers*

Lisa Lyon, Community Assembly Manager, endorsed the questioner's comments on the hard work and dedication of the two officers and the outcomes achieved. She added that Lucy Atkins' post was only part-time and would have ended in any case in August 2012, as it was funded by an East Peak Innovation Partnership grant. At the present time, community development across the Assembly area was being evaluated and she would report back on the outcome in due course. Marika Puglisi, Community Assembly Manager, added that officers were engaged in the process of looking at the needs of the Parish Councils.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings of the Assembly held on 27th March 2012 and

16th May 2012, were each approved as a correct record.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION DECISIONS

9. NORTHERN ASSEMBLY DISCRETIONARY BUDGET – REALLOCATION OF FUNDING

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing proposals to reallocate funding from the Assembly's Discretionary Budget 2012/13.

9.1 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly:-

- (a) notes the information contained within the report and reallocates the following sums from Northern Community Assembly Discretionary funds:-
 - Previously agreed Ward Pot budget reduced from £36,000 to £10,000 (£2,500 per Ward)
 - £26,000 from Ward Pot funding reallocated towards Small Grants Projects (increasing Small Grants pot from £20,000 to £46,000)
- (b) authorises the Northern Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly and also, in the case of the Ward Pot funding, with the relevant Ward Members, to agree the allocation of funds from the Ward Pot and Small Grants budgets; and
- (c) authorises the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, to agree the terms on which all funding referred to in the report is made available and to enter into such funding agreements with recipients of the funding and any other related agreements or arrangements, and on such terms, that she considers appropriate.

9.2 Reasons For The Decision

The reallocation of funding is being recommended for two reasons:-

- (a) The Northern Community Assembly has received more Small Grants applications in the first round of grants than the Assembly team had anticipated for the full year. 40 applications received for the first round of funding totalling more than £33,000. The total budget for the year is £20,000.
- (b) Cabinet has now confirmed that each Assembly have been allocated a Highways budget of £40,000. This means that any Highways scheme requests can be considered for funding from this budget rather than the Ward pot.

9.3 **Alternative Options Considered**

Alternative options to running a Small Grants fund and Ward Pot were outlined within the report considered at the Assembly meeting in March 2012. An alternative option to the current proposal which has been considered is to adhere to the original Ward Pot and Small Grants allocation as agreed at the Assembly meeting on the 27th March 2012.

10 **NORTHERN ASSEMBLY HIGHWAYS BUDGET 2012/13**

The Highways Link Manager and the Northern Community Assembly Manager submitted a joint report which set out ideas for spending the Assembly's allocation of £40,000 for Highways schemes in 2012/13 and £12,309 carried forward from 2011/12.

10.1 **Decision Taken**

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly:-

- (a) notes the information contained within the report and allocates the following sums from Northern Assembly Highways Budget 2012/13:
 - Speed Indication Device Rotation and new sites - £2,664 for twelve rotations
 - Wheel Lane - (Safety Camera Partnership signage) - £2,000
 - Schemes identified using statistical data as spending criteria - Up to £47,645;
- (b) authorises the Highways Link Officer and Northern Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to adjust the precise sums within the areas of spend outlined in paragraph (a) above, and to apply any further underspend from 2011/12 to the same projects;
- (c) defers the decision on the Ecclesfield Road Phase 2 scheme until the Coroner's report and findings on a fatal road accident on that road are released and until more information is made available on the Highways PFI programme; and
- (d) defers the decision on a Worrall Road scheme until more information is made available on the Highways PFI programme.

10.2 **Reasons For The Decision**

The purpose of the Highways Budget is to respond to local requests for Highways improvements. Safer Roads is one of the Northern Assembly Community Plan priorities.

The 2012/13 budget of £40,000 and £12,309 carry forward from 2011/12 will

only allow for a small number of schemes to be implemented in this financial year and the proposals set out in the report respond to requests from local residents and build on the work carried out over the last few years.

10.3 **Alternative Options Considered**

Several alternative options for spend have been considered, but are not currently recommended for funding.

- Continue to allocate budget between the four Community Assembly Wards. Ward Members to agree a list of preferred small schemes or potentially 1 or 2 larger schemes at Ward meetings
- Allocate budget to larger schemes across the Assembly
- Nominate 1 20mph zone to be funded centrally to a maximum of £40K.
- Fund 1 Additional 20mph scheme from the Assembly's Highways Budget
- Match spend to PFI programme of works at Ewden zone, to be constructed between September 2012 and March 2013
- Ecclesfield Phase 2
- Consider reducing speed limit at Worrall

11. **STANNINGTON ROAD/STANWOOD AVENUE PETITION REPORT**

The Director of Development Services submitted a report in response to a petition expressing concerns over the safety of pedestrians crossing Stannington Road near the junction of Stanwood Avenue.

11.1 **Decision Taken**

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly:-

- (a) declines the request to provide a pedestrian facility to the West of the Stannington Road/Stanwood Avenue junction, principally on safety grounds; and
- (b) thanks the petitioners for bringing this matter to the attention of the Council.

11.2 **Reasons For The Decision**

- (a) A number of observations have been made at the Stannington Road/Stanwood Avenue junction and the petitioners' concern for pedestrians crossing the main road near the shops, is understandable. Unfortunately the more pertinent measures of assistance for pedestrians (i.e crossings, pedestrian refuge) are not safe options for this location. Provision of a specific facility explicitly encouraging a crossing movement in an area of restricted intervisibility is unsound.

This was the conclusion of engineers in 2003 and the basic layout is little changed. The existing build out, to the East of the Stanwood Avenue junction, is probably the optimum Road Safety feature.

- (b) Aside from any safety considerations it is unlikely, in any event, that a scheme would be funded from mainstream Council budgets. Throughout the City there are a number of locations where pedestrians cross in greater numbers and that have more imposing accident history.
- (c) A traffic calming scheme may have the effect of reducing vehicle speeds by degree but it would be of no direct assistance to pedestrians crossing Stannington Road. Traffic calming features would have a permanent effect on vehicle speeds on a B road. Any deterrent effect may lead drivers to take alternative, inappropriate routes. From a Traffic Management standpoint the B6086 is an appropriate route for commuter traffic and discouraging this route to any great extent may be inadvisable.
- (d) Overall pedestrian numbers are relatively low at this junction. It is appreciated that the existing build out is not direct for all pedestrian journeys but this facility is available for those who value safety over convenience. The build out is pertinent for walking journeys to and from Forge Valley School (opened in September 2011) and for those wishing to wait for the bus at the inbound stop. Forge Valley students are also able to use the Zebra Crossing at the Stannington Road/Barlow Road junction rather than walk Stanwood Avenue. The difference in the distance between these two walking journeys is slightly less than fifty metres. However relatively few Forge Valley students live South West of the Stanwood Avenue junction and subsequently there are very few genuine walking journeys. In the morning period large numbers of students crossing Stannington Road have chosen to travel further on the outbound buses in order to pay a visit to the shops. This is not a direct school journey.

All things considered a commitment of resources to any of the feasible options described may yield little dividend in terms of overall pedestrian safety at this location.

11.3 Alternative Options Considered

- (a) The layout is little changed since engineers reviewed this location in 2003. Because visibility is restricted by the bend it is not feasible to construct a safe pedestrian facility to the West of the Stanwood Avenue junction.
- (b) Even if the area in front of the shops was judged an appropriate location for a crossing, customer parking and space for loading and deliveries would be removed, as all on street parking in front of the

shops, would be unavailable. Relocation of the outbound bus stop would be necessary and this will, by degree, alter pedestrian desire lines which, in turn, may diminish the attractiveness of incorporating a crossing into a walking route. It is likely that some residents would express disapproval if a bus stop was sited outside their house.

- (c) It may be feasible to locate a Zebra Crossing, in conjunction with speed cushions, on the Eastern side of the Stanwood Avenue junction. Such a facility would supercede the existing build out. Nonetheless it is doubtful that all pedestrians would be drawn to the crossing and some may continue to cross Stannington Road using direct routes. The necessary relocation of the inbound bus stop would in itself contribute to an alteration to customary pedestrian desire lines. Taking everything into account the commensurate safety gain, in replacing the existing build out, would be minimal. The estimated cost of providing a Zebra Crossing, with traffic calming features would be in excess of £80,000.
- (d) Doing nothing is an option. The situation will remain as it is.
- (e) This section of Stannington Road could be subject to a traffic calming scheme – possibly a series of cushions. Such a scheme would not be of direct help to pedestrians crossing the road. The effect would be a reduction in vehicle speeds but, again, the overall safety improvement may be minimal.

From a traffic management viewpoint, the deterrent effect of providing traffic calming measures on a B road may be viewed as a negative. Drivers may well seek other inappropriate routes thereby creating additional road safety problems.

It is difficult to provide a precise cost estimate for such a traffic calming scheme without detailed design work taking place. However an indicative estimate may be in excess of £65,000.

- (f) Forge Valley students, on bus and walking journeys, do have the option of using the Zebra Crossing at the Stannington Road/Barlow Road. In comparison with the walking route (which takes in Stanwood Avenue) the difference in distance is fifty metres.

Very few Forge Valley students live in the area South West of Stanwood Avenue. Most of the children witnessed crossing the road, in front of the shops, on the mornings of 20th and 21st February 2012 did so after alighting an outbound bus (N.B. 31 children did this on 21st February). These Forge Valley students *choose* to take an indirect route (i.e. remaining on the outbound bus) in order to pay a visit to the shops.

SHEFFIELD HOMES NORTH AREA BOARD AND SHEFFIELD HOMES NORTH WEST AREA BOARD

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report on the proposed nomination of a member of the Community Assembly to the Sheffield Homes North Area Board and Sheffield Homes North West Area Board respectively.

12.1 Decision Taken

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly:-

- (a) having regard to any views expressed by the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods about the proposal to nominate Councillor Garry Weatherall to the Sheffield Homes North Area Board, and Councillor Richard Crowther to the Sheffield Homes North West Area Board, nominates those two members of the Assembly to these positions;
- (b) requests the Director of Modern Governance to refer these nominations to Full Council at the earliest opportunity; and
- (c) requests the Community Assembly Manager to complete the necessary paperwork to effect these appointments, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.

12.2 Reasons For The Decision

The Northern Community Assembly has been requested to nominate two Sheffield City Council appointees, one to the Sheffield Homes North Area Board and one to the Sheffield Homes North West Area Board.

12.3 Alternative Options Considered

The Northern Community Assembly could consider alternative nominees to the Councillors proposed.

13. OLDER PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

Marika Puglisi, Community Assembly Manager, reported on a 50+ event which had taken place in Stocksbridge and at which different services such as South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Transport and Sheffield Homes had been represented. There were over 50 people in attendance, who were mostly from the Stocksbridge/Deepcar area and officers were now looking at the outcomes from the event to assess what older people needed. Feedback was also being considered so that any future such events could be improved and it was hoped to organise similar events across the Assembly area. Any further developments would be reported back to the Assembly.

RESOLVED: That the Northern Community Assembly notes the information reported.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Assembly noted that its next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 2nd October 2012, at 6.30 p.m. at Ecclesfield School.

(NOTE: These minutes are subject to approval at a future meeting).